

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 07056 071618Z
ACTION EUR-03

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0157

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 07056

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FOR GARRISON FROM MATLOCK

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. WE CANNOT AGREE WITH STATEMENT (STATE 86982) THAT WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT HELLER VIOLATED POUCH REGULATIONS OR THAT YOU DO NOT KNOW WHAT HE TOLD JEWISHGROUPS IN WASHINGTON. THE NEWSLETTER CIRCULATED BY THE WASHINGTON COUNCIL ON SOVIET JEWRY IS PERFECTLY CLEAR ON BOTH COUNTS, AND AS DESK WILL RECALL, IT WAS PRECISELY THIS INCIDENT WHICH PRECIPITATED THE DRASTIC OVERHAUL OF EMBASSY POUCH PROCEDURES LAST YEAR. WITH REGARD TO EVIDENCE, IT SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE QUESTION IS NOT A LEGAL PROCEEDING AGAINST HELLER BUT RATHER A QUESTION OF JUDGMENT WHETHER A USG EMPLOYEE IS SUFFICIENTLY RESPONSIBLE AND MATURE TO CARRY OUT AN OFFICIAL MISSION IN THE SOVIET UNION, AND WHETHER PAST ACTIVITIES BY THE INDIVIDUAL WOULD JEOPARDIZE AN OFFICIAL MISSION. FURTHERMORE, HELLER'S PROPOSED PROJECT APPEARS MOST QUESTIONABLE AS CONCERNS BALANCE OF BENEFITS. HE TOLD US LAST SUMMER THAT HIS SOVIET FRIENDS IN NOVOSIBIRSK COMPUTER CENTER HAD ASKED HIM HOW THEY COULD OBTAIN ACCESS TO EPA DATA BANKS. HELLER SAID THAT HE WOULD TRY TO GIN UP A PROJECT TO TEACH THEM HOW
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TO ACCESS THESE DATA: IT IS BY NO MEANS CLEAR WHAT IF ANYTHING EPA GETS IN RETURN. HELLER'S SUPPOSED UNIQUE QUALIFICATIONS FOR THIS TASK STEMS, IT APPEARS, FROM HIS BEING THE ONLY INDIVIDUAL IN EPA INTERESTED IN IT. WE ARE QUITE CERTAIN THAT EPA COULD FIND ANOTHER QUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL IF THEY SERIOUSLY WISH TO PURSUE EXCHANGES OF COMPUTERIZED INFORMATION ON A RECIPROCAL BASIS. WE AGAIN

STRONGLY URGE YOU TO CONSULT WITH EPA ON TURNING THIS
VISIT OFF QUIETLY AND QUICKLY.

2. RE PARA 5, STATE 83884, PACKAGE WAS POUCHED TO YOU
FOLLOWING LAST EXCHANGE. IN ANY EVENT, RETURN BY ROUTE IT
CAME SEEMS PREFERABLE TO RELYING ON OUTSIDER TO EFFECT
RETURN.

3. WHAT IS CURRENT STATUS OF LETTER AND RECOMMENDATION
MENTIONED IN PARA 6 (B) OF STATE 68652?

4. WE NEED REPLY TO MOSCOW 6913 AND 6812 URGENTLY. IS
THERE ANY PROBLEM?

5. RE HOLIDAY ON ICE RUBLES, YOU SHOULD BE SURE TO GET
A COPY OF MOSCOW 7019 WHICH REPORTS THAT UPDK IS LIKELY
TO PUT ALL OF OUR SOVIET EMPLOYEES UNDER A CENTRAL CONTRACT
WITH SALARY PAYMENT BY BANK TRANSFER AS OF JANUARY 1, 1979.
ONE OF THE EFFECTS OF THIS ACTION WILL BE TO REDUCE OUR
CAPACITY TO USE RUBLES BY ABOUT 80 PERCENT. IT SEEMS
PROBABLE WE WILL HAVE TO REDUCE DRASTICALLY OUR EXCHANGE
OPERATIONS MENTIONED IN PARA 2 OF STATE 89314 IN
THE FUTURE. TOON

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Subject: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL
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